

Message Text

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SUBJ: SAUDI PRESS ON NEW LABOR REGULATIONS

1. JIDDA DAILY SAUDI GAZETTE ON AUGUST 2 CARRIED FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON NEW LABOR REGULATIONS. BEGIN TEXT:

2. A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PRINCE NAIF BIN ABD AL-AZIZ, MINISTER OF INTERIOR DR. SOLAIMAN A. SOLAIM, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, AND SHEIKH IBRAHIM AL-ANGARI, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS HAS ISSUED REGULATIONS FOR THE GRANTING OF LICENSES TO ESTABLISH OFFICES FOR IMPORTING FOREIGN WORKERS. THE COMMITTEE STRESSED THAT THE SUPPLY OF FOREIGN WORKERS MUST BE ACCORDING TO THE KINGDOM'S NEEDS. THE LABOR OFFICES WILL IMPORT WORKERS ACCORDING TO EMPLOYERS' NEEDS. THEY MAY ALSO, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE AND UNDER THEIR OWN SPONSORSHIP, IMPORT WORKERS WHOSE SERVICES MAY BE OFFERED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO EMPLOYERS.

3. THE QUESTION OF WAGES SHALL BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE EMPLOYER AND THE LABOR OFFICE. WHILE LINKS BETWEEN THE WORKERS AND THE OFFICES WILL CONTINUE, THE EMPLOYER IS COMMITTED TO PAY THE WORKERS THE AGREED WAGE AND TO PROTECT HIS RIGHTS.

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4. APPLICANTS FOR LICENSES TO OPERATE SUCH OFFICES MUST BE OF SAUDI NATIONALITY, AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD AND HAVE AT LEAST AN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. IF A LICENSE HOLDER DOES NOT INTEND TO RUN AN OFFICE FULL TIME, HE MUST HAVE A RESPONSIBLE SAUDI MANAGER. AT LEAST ONE PERSON ON THE OFFICE STAFF MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH WORKERS AFFAIRS. IF DEALINGS ARE WITH NON-ARABIC SPEAKING FOREIGNERS, THE

OFFICE MUST HAVE TRANSLATORS.

5. AN APPLICANT MUST SUBMIT A PLAN FOR OFFICE WORK AND A BANK GUARANTEE OF 50,000 SAUDI RIYALS PAYABLE AT ANY TIME TO BE USED IN CASE OF INSOLVENCY OR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE OFFICE'S COMMITMENT TO ITS IMPORTED WORKERS.

6. THE F OFFICE IS NOT ALLOWED TO RECEIVE ANY MONEY FROM THE WORKER IN RETURN FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE KINGDOM. ALL OFFICE FEES ARE TO BE PAID BY THE EMPLOYER.

7. THE OFFICES MUST INVESTIGATE ABROAD THE REPUTATIONS OF ITS IMPORTED WORKERS AND THEIR ABILITY TO DO THE JOBS THEY UNDERTAKE. THE FOOFFICES MUST ALSO FIVE THE WORKER A GOOD IDEA OF THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE KINGDOM, ISLAMIC TRADITION AND CUSTOMS.

8. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR WILL NOT GRANT NEW LICENSES IF THE NUMBER OF OFFICES ALREADY OPERATING AT ANY TIME IS SUFFICIENT.

9. A COMMITTEE INCLUDING THE UNDER SECRETARIES OF THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, COMMERCE AND LABOR WILL MEET EVERY THREE MONTHS OR WHENEVER NECESSARY TO INTERPRET THESE DECISIONS. FOLLOW UP THEIR APPLICATION AND SUGGEST AMENDMENTS. END TEXT.

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